

# New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026–2030



## Vision

New Zealand is an equitable and accessible place for all disabled people and their whānau – where disabled people thrive, contribute, and choose the lives they want to lead.

## Foundations

This strategy is built on 3 important foundations.

### Enabling Good Lives

Enabling Good Lives is part of the whakapapa of this strategy. It is a vision and set of principles developed by the disability community as a foundation for positive change. The principles are self-determination, beginning early, person-centred, ordinary life outcomes, mainstream first, mana enhancing, easy to use and relationship building.

### UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

New Zealand has a range of human rights commitments, in New Zealand law and as part of international obligations. This strategy helps New Zealand meet its human rights commitments including its obligations under the UNCRPD.

### Treaty of Waitangi – Te Tiriti o Waitangi

This strategy helps the Government meet its obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi (te Tiriti o Waitangi). The Treaty establishes the relationship between Māori and the Crown. It recognises the unique position of Māori as tāngata whenua. It ensures partnership, participation, and protection for tāngata whaikaha Māori.

## Principles

The following principles are key values that make sure the strategy reflects the things that are important to disabled people.

### Accessibility

This principle recognises that accessibility is fundamental to participation and inclusion. When environments and services are designed from the beginning with accessibility in mind, they benefit everyone, not just disabled people.

### Self-determination

This principle recognises that disabled people have the same rights as other people to make decisions about their own lives, including using supported decision-making. It asserts the value 'nothing about us without us', and that disabled individuals are the experts in their own lives.

### Upholding equity, culture and identity

This principle brings together concepts of equity, non-discrimination and inclusion. It acknowledges that disabled individuals belong to diverse whānau, communities and cultures, each with their own unique identities, values and practices. It recognises people should not face barriers because of the different parts of their identities.

### Participation and inclusion

This principle recognises that disabled people have the right to be active members of their communities and cultures, contributing in all aspects of life. It is wider society's role to help ensure participation and inclusion of disabled people.

### Respect and dignity

This principle recognises that disabled people thrive when barriers are broken down, society holds positive attitudes about disability, and disabled people are valued members of society.

# Priority Outcome Areas

The strategy has 5 priority outcome areas with a goal and a set of actions to achieve the goal. Below are the goals for each priority outcome area.



## Goal for education

Every learner is supported to attend, participate and progress in education. There is a high expectation that all learners – including disabled learners – will achieve their potential in the education setting of their choice.



## Goal for employment

Disabled people will have meaningful career opportunities, equal to non-disabled people, and be valued the same way. Disability-confident employers will recognise disabled people's talents and expertise, and will provide accessible and inclusive workplaces throughout the employment lifecycle.



## Goal for health

Disabled people will achieve the highest possible standard of health and wellbeing. They will decide what this means for themselves and their whānau.



## Goal for housing

Disabled people and their whānau have affordable, safe, healthy, secure, and accessible homes that meet their needs and support their independence.



## Goal for justice

Disabled people's human rights and freedoms will be protected, and their disability rights will be realised. Disabled people will be treated fairly and equitably by the justice system and will be supported to meaningfully participate. Justice system policies and practices will embed accessibility, inclusion and lived experience.

## Measuring progress

The Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha will measure progress against the strategy for an annual report to Parliament.

### We will:

- ask government agencies to report back on the progress of actions they are responsible for
- use system level indicators to show whether the strategy is improving medium to long term outcomes for disabled people
- use indicators to monitor progress against each of the strategy's priority outcome areas. These will be published in an interactive dashboard, alongside more detailed supporting measures, on our website ([www.whaikaha.govt.nz](http://www.whaikaha.govt.nz)).

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